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“Honor Yourself” Questionnaire

Name: Desi Small-Rodriguez

Current Occupation/Employer: Social Science Researcher/
Waikato Raunatu Lands Trust

What, if you have one or would like to share it, is your name in your tribal language? You may also include the translation. My Cheyenne name is Bear Mint Woman and I am named after one of my grandmothers, Rose King.

Please list all colleges you have attending and include the degrees earned at each: Stanford University B.A. 2007, M.A. 2008

What are three words you would use to describe yourself?

1. Spirited
2. Blessed
3. Grounded

How would you be described by friends and colleagues? I am a loyal friend and very committed to my work. My friends would probably describe me as fun, loud, and fabulous. My colleagues would

Who have been role models or positive influences in your life? My mother, my aunties, and my grandmothers have always been my role models and I strive to be a strong Native

Are there any teachers or professors who have been especially important to your education? I have had some tremendous teachers

Are there any important places or cities in your life? Machu Picchu, Peru, the Bay Area, and New Zealand have special meaning to me. My favorite place, however, is my family home and land

What is one obstacle that you've had to overcome in your life? How were you able to overcome it? How did it change who you were/are? Life is full of obstacles, both small and large. I can't pinpoint just one, but overall I've been very blessed in my life. I try to believe in myself and just roll with the punches.

What are your favorite books or other things to read? Decolonizing Methodologies by Linda Tuhiwai Smith is one of the most powerful books I have ever read. I love to read pretty much anything

What types of music do you listen to? Who are some of your favorite musicians or groups? Music keeps me going. I have different playlists for every part of my day/life.

What are your hobbies or what things do you like to do in your spare time? My family come first in my life and my friends are a close second. Basketball is my sport of

Do you have any specific advice to young people who might be interested in your career field? Read and write as much as you can and

Has there been a “turning point” in your life? If so, explain the situation and the outcome in as much detail as you would like to share. A big turning point in my life was the passing of a best friend, Maurice Morsette, in April 2007. As a result, I have promised myself that I will never hesitate to let people know how much they mean to me.

Discuss any community related service or future goals you have in this area? In what ways have you “given back” or would like to? I am dedicated to my tribe and community. I eventually hope to return home and teach high school or work in some capacity to improve the lives of Northern Cheyenne and Native youth. I would also like to continue

Describe any traveling you have done in your lifetime? I travel as much as I can and try to enjoy the journey wherever and with whomever it takes me. I have been all over Central and South America,

Any additional information you would like to share about yourself? (i.e.: grass dancer, barrel racer, fluent language speaker, proud parent, etc.) I love being an auntie, I enjoy fishing, I like bright colors, live music and good company are two of my must-haves in life, I love Native bling, my grandpa is my favorite person in the world. I love enjoy food, fresh flowers make me smile, and nobody can make me laugh like

Are there any web links (online newspapers, websites, etc.) that include more information about you that you would like to have posted on the OPI website?



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